(c) The Government does not grant permission lor fresh or additional underwriting of capital issues to members of Stock Exchanges.

Second Indian cosmonaut and use of Soviet Space Station

1115. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) by when the second Indian cosmonaut is likely to be sent in spece; and

(b) whether Government have any plans to use the facilities of the permanent Soviet space station, either for extended stay in space of an Indian cosmonaut or for conducting joint scientific experiments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOG AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) At present, there are no proposals for sending a second Indian into' Space or for using the facilities of a permanent Soviet Space Station for extended stay in space of an Indian. While the Indian scientists have generally kept abreast of salient developments regarding space platforms planned by different countries, no detailed plans have been worked for consideration of conduct of scientific experiments using such platforms.

Chinese acquired space technology

1116. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pieased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent strides made by China in space technology, by which she has even offered rocket launching facilities to United States and West European Countries; and

Ob) what steps are being taken by India to come up at least on par with China in the Space Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R, NARAYANAN): (a) While there are reports in the media about such offers by China and discussions thereof, Government have no authentic information.

(b) It is Government's policy to use outer space for peaceful purposes and the Indian Space Programme is oriented to meet our needs mainly in communications and remote sensing. The Government is not in competition with any other country but wishes to harness space technology for the benefit of the Indian people.

Committees appointed to examine the problem of black money

1117. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Committees appointed so far by Government to examine the problem of black money or to unearth the black money in the country;

(b) the findings and recommendations of each Committee; and

(c) the steps taken by Government on their recommendations and find-ings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The Direct Taxes Enquiry Committee (Wanchoo Committee) was set up in 1970 and submitted its

report in 1971. This Committee suggested reduction in tax rates, reduction in controls and licences, regulation of donations to political parties, liberal Summary Assessment Schemes in small income cases, vigorous search, survey and prosecution policy, introduction of Permanent Account Number and penalty to be based on tax and not in income as some of the measures to reduce the incidents of tax evasion and avoidance. Most of these suggestions were incorporated in the Income-tax and other Direct Taxes Act through the Finance Act. 1975.

The Government also entrusted the task of study of black money to the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in 1983, though this was not a separa'e Committee formed for this purpose. Their report was submitted in 1985 and views of Members Of Parliament on suggestions made were invited which have been reflected in the Long-term Fiscal Policy. The suggestions on which action has already been taken include, *inter alia.* liberalisation of Summary Assessment Scheme and stepping up of searches, prosecution and survey. The suggestions on which action was to be taken by the State Governments have been brought to their notice for consideration. To simplify and rationalise Direct Tax Laws, a Discussion Paper was laid on the Tables of both the Houses of Parliament.

Visit of Soviet delegation to India.

1118. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleas-ed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Soviet Scientists' delegation visited the country during February, 1987;

(b) What are the areas selected by the Soviets for cooperation in India;

(c) whether any agreement has since been reached in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A preparatory delegation of Soviet Scientists visited India in January, 1987 for discussions prior to the visit of the main delegation which is now scheduled for March, 1987.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Narora Atomic Power Plant

1119. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: •

(a) whether it is a fact that the Narora Atomic Power Plant is not likely to be commissioned in 1988, as planned;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the project is now-scheduled to be commissioned; and

(d) what measures have been taken to remove the problems which are coming in fee way of its completion on schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND